REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 13, 19 and 20 are amended. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,106) in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,382) and McClellion (U.S. Patent No. 7,156,026);

claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell, in view of Yamazaki and McClellion, and further in view of Simpkins et al. (U.S. 5,431,569);

claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Uebel (U.S. 4,199,264);

claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Uebel, and further in view of Sagara et al. (U.S. 5,050,587);

claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Clarkson (U.S. 6,122,991);

claims 11, 12, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,589,532) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. 4,589, 532);

claims 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell and Yamazaki, and further in view of McClellion and Tosaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,989,123);

claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell, Yamazaki, McClellion, and further in view of Uebel;

claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell and Yamazaki, and further in view of McClellion and Tosaki et al.;

claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki, Uebel, McDowell, and McClellion; and

claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki, McClellion, Tosaki et al., and McDowell, and further in view of Simpkins et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 11, and 13

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, **independent claim 1** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames having upper portions that are directly attached to the cylindrical portion and lower portions that are connected via a connection frame, the at least two main frames having curved shapes,

wherein said steering handle mechanism is mounted at upper portions of the cylindrical portion, and the connection shaft is disposed midway along the connection frame which extend orthogonally with respect to the lower portions of the at least two main frames."

In addition, **independent claim 11** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a frame portion including a cylindrical portion into which the handle mechanism is inserted, and at least two curved main frames directly connected to the cylindrical portion,

two of the at least two curved main frames being connected via a connection frame extending laterally between lower portions of the two main frames, and the connection shaft is mounted along a central portion of the connection frame which extend orthogonally with respect to the lower portions of the two main frames."

In addition, **independent claim 13** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"wherein the first and second main frames are connected via a connection frame extending laterally between lower portions of the first and second main frames,

wherein the connection shaft is mounted along a central portion of the connection frame extending between the lower portions of the at first and second main frames."

The Examiner concedes that McDowell fails to disclose a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames.

Yamazaki et al. were cited to teach two pedals operable as a brake and a gear changer.

As for the McClellion reference, as can be seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, this document merely discloses a contoured frame 10 having an upper section 14 attached at upper ends thereof to left and right sides of controller platform 24. The contoured frame 10 has a base 12 with a pair of upward extending legs 16a and 16b, connecting, respectively to left and right sides of upper section 14 of the contoured frame 14.

Thus, McClellon fails to teach or suggest

"connection frame which extend orthogonally with respect to the lower portions of the at least two main frames", as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11, or

"wherein the first and second main frames are connected via a connection frame extending laterally between lower portions of the first and second main frames,

wherein the connection shaft is mounted along a central portion of the connection

frame extending between the lower portions of the at first and second main frames", as set forth in independent claim 13.

The Tosaki et al. document was cited merely to disclose a spring mechanism, and the Ito et al. document was cited merely to disclose a click mechanism.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 11, and 13 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including McDowell, Yamazaki, and McClellion, Tosaki et al., and Ito et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 5, 6, and 7

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, **independent claim 5** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a vibrator for a dummy engine vibration in a steering handle mechanism, the vibrator formed with left and right flat sides and curved top and bottom sides ... ,

wherein each of the brackets includes a recess on an inner surface thereof, and when the brackets are mated directly together, the recesses of the mating brackets form a space in which the vibrator is disposed,

wherein the recesses of the brackets have flat rectangular-shaped inner faces that oppose each other for receiving the left and right flat sides of the vibrator, and the

eccentrically mounted weight is disposed in a portion of the brackets that is separate from each of the recesses."

In addition, **independent claim 6** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"wherein the vibrator is formed with two parallel flat sides and curved top and bottom sides,

wherein a first portion of the hollow space is enclosed and includes two flat rectangular-shaped inner faces that are parallel to each other for receiving the two parallel flat sides of the vibrator."

Further, **independent claim 7** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"wherein the vibrator is formed with left and right flat sides and curved top and bottom sides,

wherein the recesses of the brackets have flat, rectangular-shaped inner faces opposing each other for receiving the left and right flat sides of the vibrator, the eccentric cam being disposed in a portion of the brackets that is separate from each of the recesses."

Support for the novel features of claim 5, 6, and 7 can be been in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 9-11. By contrast, no combination of Yamazaki et al., Uebel, and Sagara et al. can teach the subject matter of these claims.

The Examiner concedes that Yamazaki fails to mating brackets with recesses having flat inner faces. Recess 44 of Uebel certainly does not have a flat inner face. The Sagara et al. document was cited merely to disclose a cam weight.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 5, 6, and 7 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamazaki, Uebel, and Sagara et al.

Therefore, independent claim 5, 6, and 7 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 19 and 20 have been amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030(direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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